from 4th June, 1997; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the details of their demands alongwith the reaction of Government;

(c) whether all the terms of agreement were strictly implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-implementation; and

(e) whether instructions have been issued for immediate implementation of the said agreement; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) The employees of the CGHS were on strike from 4.6.97 to 9.6.1997. Their demands related to certain recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission *inter-alia* covering abolition of vacant posts, split duty hours in CGHS, removal of anomalies in pay-scales of various catergories, opening of CGHS own hospitals, etc.

As the recommendations of the Pay Commission were still under process at that time, the Association was informed that their concerns regarding working condition, etc., would be sympathetically projected at the appropriate stage and that the strike should be called off as patients care service, which was the primary concern of the CGHS would be jeopardised.

The various recommendations of the Pay Commission are under consideration.

Shortage of Para-Medical Staff in CGHS Homocopathic Units

965. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all CGHS Homocopathic units in Delhi are not functioning properly due to shortage of para-medical staff and non availability of substitutes;

(b) whether the dispensing counters and stores of CGHS Homocopathic units are not properly and alphabatically groupwise arranged, which creates lot of difficulties to the substitute pharmacists and beneficiaries;

(c) whether Government are considering to upgrade the standard of these units by posting para-medical staff; and

(d) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information available, there is no shortage of para-medical staff and the Homocopathic units are generally functioning properly. The store and dispensing counters are normally arranged alphabetically and group-wise. No difficulty if any, faced by the staff, has been reported.

(c) and (d) Although upgradation of some Homocopathy units had been envisaged in the 9th Five Year Plan, the Plan is yet to be finalised. Hence, the upgradation would depend on the resources made available and also the requirement, feasibility and availability of manpower.

Financial Grant on Birth of a Girl Child

966. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a scheme to grant Rs. 500 in case of birth of a girl child to parents who are living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) This scheme has been launched by the Department of Women and Child Development. According to the information given by the Department of Women and Child Development, under